

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 12-14, and 16 and cancel claims 4, 8, 11, 17, and 18 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A spacer discharging apparatus of an FED (field emission display), comprising:

a resistor connected between an anode electrode and a spacer ground electrode of an FED; ~~[[and]]~~

a switch unit for ~~selectively~~ connecting the resistor to the anode electrode ~~or to the spacer ground electrode~~ and applying a pulse control signal in synchronization with a vertical synchronous signal to the anode electrode in order to discharge electric charge charged in a spacer of the FED, during a blanking time period; and

a protection resistor connected between the anode electrode and a high voltage power source unit applying a high voltage to the anode electrode,

wherein the switch unit comprises:

a buffer and inverter signal unit for outputting a control signal during the blanking time period;

a transistor for outputting a driving current upon receiving the control signal from the buffer and inverter signal unit; and

a switch for connecting the anode electrode to the resistor by receiving the driving current.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch unit is connected in series between the anode electrode and the spacer ground electrode and selectively turned on/off.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch unit applies a pulse control signal in synchronization with a vertical synchronous signal to the anode electrode during an interval where a voltage applied to the anode electrode is cut off.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the blanking time period indicates time during which no image is displayed on a screen of the FED or a pulse duration of the vertical synchronous signal (V sync).

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the pulse control signal is repeatedly applied at certain period intervals on the basis of the vertical synchronous signal.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the certain period is determined depending on a discharge state or a noise state of the FED.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[8]] 1, wherein the switch is one of a high voltage relay, a high voltage switch and thyristor.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the switch is turned on when a current flows to the transistor, and turned off when no current flows to the transistor.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[11]] 1, wherein the protection resistor has a resistance value of a few K ~ scores of M[ohm].

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[11]] 1, wherein the resistor controls discharge time and a residual voltage.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein [[the]] the switch unit is connected between the resistor and the anode electrode.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch unit is connected between the resistor and the spacer ground electrode.

16. (Currently amended) A spacer discharging method of an FED (field emission display) comprising:

selectively connecting a resistor to an anode electrode of the FED ~~or to a spacer ground electrode of the FED~~ and applying a pulse control signal in synchronization with a vertical synchronous signal to the anode electrode in order to discharge electric charge charged in a spacer of the FED, during a blanking time period, wherein the resistor is connected between the anode electrode and the spacer ground electrode, and wherein the pulse control signal is repeatedly applied at certain period intervals according to a discharge state or a noise state of the FED.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein in order to form the discharge path, a protection resistor is connected between the anode electrode and a high voltage power source unit for applying a high voltage to the anode electrode.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the resistor controls discharge time and a residual voltage.